[illegible]

[illegible]

presents, beads, chains, or even a head of small livestock.

During the last two months before her confinement the woman is given only a meager diet, so that the birth will be easier. Here, too, [illegible] the Shaman, the pregnant woman must [illegible]. On the day of the confinement the husband may not leave the camp; the mother or sister of [illegible] acts as midwife. Besides the [illegible] methods of the Shaman, there also exists here the custom that the husband, to increase the labor-pain activity, perhaps [illegible] with his saliva the chest, abdomen, and back of the woman giving birth and then massages them gently with circular movements. While doing so, he [illegible] times calls out the words "Mighty God, let the child come out!" The umbilical cord ([illegible]) is severed with a [illegible] knife [illegible] and then, together with the placenta, buried in the hut. It is not the object of superstitious [illegible]. It is regarded as unlucky if the child's upper incisors come through before the lower ones: it is believed that this will cause illness or death in the family. The young mother may not leave the hut until five days after her confinement, out of consideration for her health, not for superstitious reasons. The nursing period lasts one and a half to two years. Besides mother's milk, the little one is stuffed with a great deal of [illegible] of grain, of which that of the large [illegible] is particularly valued as infant food.

Deformed [illegible] children are killed by strangulation by the midwife immediately after birth. The highest figure known to me [illegible] of confinements of one woman was [illegible]. From [illegible] aged old women questioned, [illegible] children were born, which gives an average of [illegible] per woman. Of these, [illegible], therefore [illegible] per cent, were girls, and [illegible], therefore [illegible] per cent, were boys. Before their circumcision [illegible] per cent had died, in which the stillbirths are included. Until their circumcision the children live in the hut of the mother.